LEHIGH VALLEY ATARI
XE ATARI XL
ST XEGS
USERS GROUP

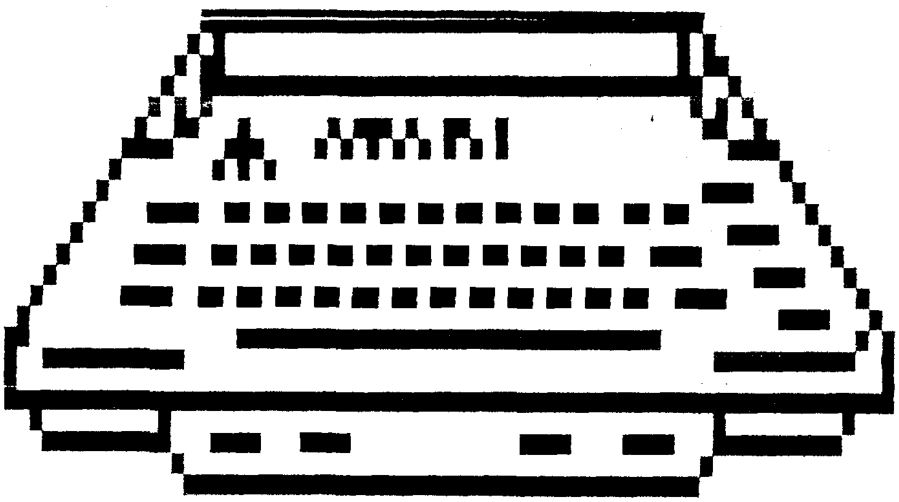
L.V.A.U.G. NEWS

LEHIGH VALLEY ATARI
XE ATARI XL
ST XEGS
USERS GROUP

MEMBER OF NEAR US

MAR-APR-1998

ISSUE #2



ATARI 8-BIT

MEETING NOTES
3/5/98

Meeting called to order and opened in due form by President Art Paolini Jr.

After the regular business was taken care of Art demoed a game called "Goonies" which is based on the movie of the same name and in this game you need very good joystick co-ordination. He also demoed "Superbreakout" another good game which also has lots of levels,

Member John Iley's son and daughter enjoyed playng the games that Art demoed and they were good players too.

For your information the Trenton Computer Show at Mercer County Community will be held on April 18th and 19th, contact Art or Jon if you are interested in going there as they know how to get there and can give you good instructions on how to get there.

There is also a show this weekend March 7 and 8 at Fort Washington Pa where you get on the turnpike.

Atari Navy is getting ready to get their ships out of drydock and are busy making plans to go sailing this coming spring and summer.

Don't forget to come to the April meeting as it is time to hold the election of Officers for the year 1998.

That is all the meeting notes for this time so be kind to each other.

Larry Tischbein
Recording Secretary

ALIEN INVADERS

Go ahead! RUN this one late at night. Your neighbors might think an alien spacecraft is landing right outside their windows.

```
300 REM SAUCER
301 SOUND 0,0,0,0:REM INIT POKEY
302 VOLUME=8:PITCH=100
303 POKE 53768,4:REM AUDCTL
304 POKE 53761,160+VOLUME:REM AUDC1
305 POKE 53765,160+VOLUME+4:REM AUDC3
306 POKE 53760,PITCH:REM AUDF1
307 POKE 53764,PITCH/2:REM AUDF3
308 GOTO 302
```

ZIGGY



THE BEST THING
ABOUT BEING ME
IS I AIN'T YOU

Flashing Atari Prompt

I was intrigued by Glenn Murray's "Flashing Prompt For VIC and PET" (**COMPUTE!**, December 1982). It was just the thing for a number of my programs. It was easily adjusted for my Atari. I offer the re-worked program for your readers:

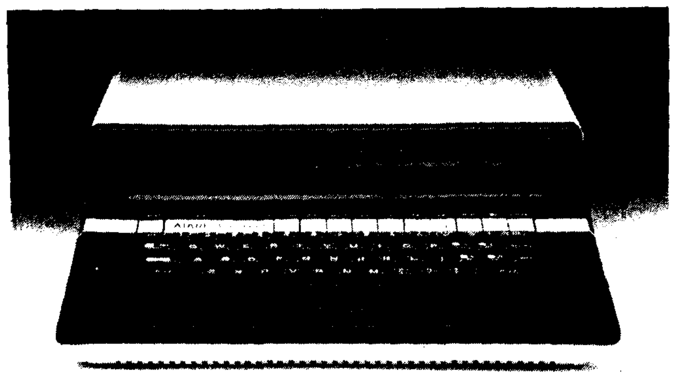
```
10 POKE 752,1
20 DIM A$(30), B$(30), X$(30)
30 A$="PRESS ANY KEY TO CONTINUE"
40 B$="{CLEAR}"
50 X$=A$
60 FOR R=1 TO 100
70 POKE 656,2: PR. X$ : REM ***PRINTS MESSAGE
   IN WINDOW***
80 FOR W=1 TO 333:NEXT W
90 IF PEEK(764)=255 THEN 110
100 IF PEEK(764)<>255 THEN RETURN :REM
   ***THIS GOS. RETURNS**
110 IF X$=A$ THEN X$=B$:NEXT R
120 IF X$=B$ THEN X$=A$:NEXT R
```

Note: Line 100 returns this GOS. routine to the main program. When you return the first entry should be, POKE 764,255:PR. B$.

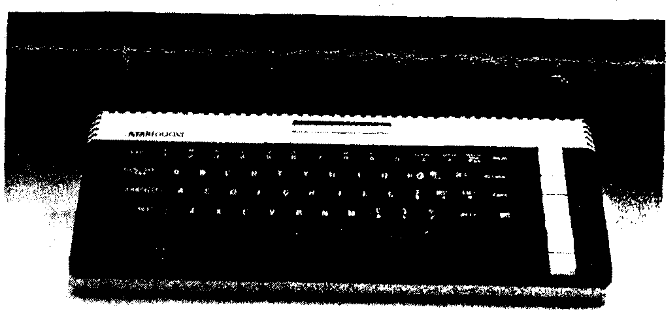
Barry E. Krischer



Atari 1400XL, with 64K, built-in modem and speech synthesizer.



Atari 1450XLD, with 64K, built-in modem, speech synthesizer, and double side/double density disk drive.



Atari 600XL, 16K RAM.



Atari 800XL, 64K.



From "COMPUTE" of August 1983.

ONLINE
NCC courses
share basics of
the Internet

Northampton Community College has some good news for computer users who want to make the most of their computer investment and their internet connection.

Starting on Jan 28th, the school will begin offering 10 online courses that teach the basics of the internet. the courses are part of the school's distance learning program and require only that a student has a personal computer and internet access.

This is part of a growing trend: schools using internet access as a way to teach. The NCC courses are modeled after similiar online courses offered by MiraCosta Communiction College part of the California State University System.

Students of online courses can work at their own pace and at their own times on assignments, rather than meeting in a traditional classroom at scheduled times.

"Introducion to the Internet" is the first six-week course that NCC will offer. Others relate to creating World Wide Web pages, Java programming for the Web. Courses tied to specific software programs such as Paint Shop Pro, Excel and Access will follow in February and March.

Each course costs $59 and most require an Internet connection, an e-mail address and access to a Word Wide Web browser.

Each week, a student wil receive two e-mail messages. Part of the message will be a classroom lecture. The second part will be an assignment that should help students understand the main points of the lecture.

All 10 course are non-credit courses, but if students want to receive a formal "letter of compelation" for the course, they have to return their finished assignments by e-mail to the course instructor within 10 days of receiving them.

If students are interested in receiving the letter, they can read the lecture and do the assigment without regard to any deadline. If questions arise, the students can send their instructor e-mail.

"This is asynchronous learning," says John Gilda, director of the college's computer training area. "That means that learning isn't dependent on students being at a single time slot or location."

Asynchronous is one of those large, strange sounding words, but understanding it offers people an important key to the Internet itself.

It essentially means not synchronous, but in Net terms, it describes events that aren't tied to a specific time. When someone sends an e-mail, it doesn't matter whether the receiver is logged on to his or her computer. When the intended receiver does log on, the e-mail message awaits.

Most every e-mail account operates in an asynchronous fashion, as do most Automated Teller Machines. Essentially, people can access their e-mail, or money from a bank account, through any number of different locations. Receiving the messages or the money is also not dependent on any time schedule (banking hours for example). The only thing needed is a password (to

access the e-mail account) or a Personal Identification Number (for the ATM cash).

NCC's online courses,like the Net introduction that begins on Jan. 28; are not platform specific, meaning, the course could benefit both users of Windows or Mac OS systems. Some of the later courses, such as the "Java" Programming for the Web", which begins March 4, requires Windows 95. The Java Development Kit used in the course isn't readily available for the Mac OS, says Gilda.

For all of the courses, students should have at least a Netscape or Internet Explorer Web browser, version 3.0 or higher he says.

The virtual courses all will be taught by a single instructor, Craig Powers, who has a background in computer science and experience in designing college level computer courses, says Gilda. The courses are offered through MiraCosta Community College's Education To Go program, which it offers to community colleges across the country.

The course are great for people with an interest in learning more about the Net, but who don't have the time for traditional college courses, which usually require regular meetings once or twice a week Gilda says.

"You need to be fairly motivated to hang in there," says Gilda. "With the traditional classroom setting there is a place and time you have to be there, and peer pressure to pay attention."

No such peer pressure exists fo the virtual course, but Gilda says they are best suited for "people who are motivated and willing to apply themselves."

The other aspect the vitrual courses provide is a veil of anonymity, which can be important for some people who are uncomfortable admitting they know little or nothing about the Internet or computers says Gilda.

Students can't register online, but the school does have a telephone number that students can call and, using a credit card, register for the courses. Call (610)861-4552.

You can also log onto MiraCost's Education To Go Web site at www.mircosta.com/index.htm and look at their course offerings. Prices start at $43 for a course, and include non-computer topics such as business management. Windows 3.1 or 95, access to the Net and up to date World Wide Web browser are also requirements for the MiraCosta courses.

Online apears every two weeks in A.M.M's Health & Science Section. Contact Tim Blangger at The Morning Call, PO Box 1260, Allentown PA,18105-1260, fax him questions or comments at (610)820-6693, or by e-mail at blangger@mcall.com

Your Editor's notes: This article was in the January 20, 1998 issue of the Morning Call. Think of the many possibilities that this can offer for you to get additional education at your own convenience in the future.

HEART THROBS

This simple heartbeat routine is just the sound to put on next time you re-read Poe's "Telltale Heart."

```
160 REM HEART
161 FOR COUNT=1 TO 40:
SOUND 0,12,3,15:NEXT COUNT
162 FOR COUNT=1 TO 150:
SOUND 0,0,0,0:NEXT COUNT
163 GOTO 161
```


people and screen reading programs.

CAUGHT IN THE WEB

Once a lifeline for the disabled, commercial focus limits Internet

by Chris Allbritton of The Associated Press

Allentown Morning Call 11/18/97

NEW YORK--It was bright day when Norman Coombs went blind. In October 1940, he was scampering about a neighborhood park, getting into boyish mischief, when a wayward stick poked his eye leaving him blind.

As a student, Coombs had to rely on others to read to him. As a professor of history at the Rochester Institute of Technology, he couldn't look up the book he wrote. But with the help of computers, Coombs taught classes by e-mailing and chatting on-line with students, many of whom were disabled. And he found his book, "The Black Experience in America," in an online catalog--an experience he called "strangely affirming."

To use his computer or the Internet, Coombs, 65, a professor meritus at RIT, relies on a program that speaks text at a breathless 400 words per minute. It rips through Internet texts, offering Coombs the same access to the global network as everyone else.

Now, however, this program often gets tongue-tied, tripping over complex documents on the World Wide Web. That's the part of the Internet with video, pictures, fancy design--even some music and audio.

While the Web is expanding at a lickety-split pace for those with hot computers and all their senses, it might well be shrinking just as fast for others. For the 10.2 million visually impaired and 10.8 million hard of hearing, the Internet is going dark and silent.

Coombs blames the setback on too-fast development by marketeers and designers eager to promote the Internet as rich,engaging and multimedia. "The typical guy designing computers and software is 25 years old and doesn't think he will ever lose his eyesight or get arthritis in his fingers," he says.

Peter Wong may not be that young--he's 36--but he knows what Coombs is talking about.

Wong is a software engineer at Microsoft, keeping the physically disabled in mind while he works to improve the popular Windows software. Windows currently runs more than 89 percent of PCs in the United States, using pictures and icons instead of text.

That's a nightmare for someone like Coombs, who relies on his ears and screen reading program. So Wong and his team are developing smarter software that can recognize speech and caption audio and video clips.

Wong is motivated because he also is blind. He lost his sight age 14 to glaucoma. Now, he says, his blindness offers a unique understanding of the difficulties that the blind encounter with the Web and computers.

But he also understands how enabling the technology can be. Before the Internet, Wong faced the same problems as Coombs did. He needed a Braille translation or someone to read for him.
Now information is directly availble online through screen readers. "It's more than a quantum leap,"Wong says. "It's like going from being

illiterate to literate.

Michael Bloomfield, Wong's engineering colleague at Microsoft, is particularly concerned about access for the deaf. Profoundly deaf, he cannot distinguish most sounds. But he monitors one site in particular that offers music and news in an all-audio format.

If AudioNet would provide captioning, then it would benefit," Bloomfield says through a special telephone operator for the deaf. "It would also help people learning English."

The Net started in 1969 as a Defense Department project involving four universities. In those days, it was just words, no graphics. So, in the 1980s, with personal computers, the Net was easy enough for the deaf people and screen reading programs. For example, at Gallaudet University in Washington DC the nation's largest school for the deaf, campus e-mail became the best way to communicate.

Now e-mail carries oportunities for the disabled beyond academia into corporate America. Blind people can work from their homes, which are often specially designed. And deaf people don't need interpreters or expensive equipment.

Those benefits can make a real difference for the nation's 54 million physically disabled, who as a group have lower incomes, fewer jobs and a greater chance of poverty. "On the Internet, disability is irrelevant.," Microsoft's Wong says. "If I don't tell you you wouldn't know I was blind.

WHEN APPLE INTRODUCED the Macintosh in 1984 and Microsoft followed with Windows soon after, computers started using pictures and icons instead of typed commands. In 1993, with the invention of the Web, the Net began to look a lot like Windows and the Macintosh.

Everthing changed. The Internet had pictures and users could simply point, clicking their way through documents. Sighted people loved it Blind people hated it.

Four years later, the Web--afloat with millions of documents--is now mainstream, and sophisticated design is common. Movie previews and BBC radio programs are a click away. What the Internet gave to the disabled, the commercialization is taking away.

Early Web sites, like the rest of the Internet, were mostly text. But when they got fancier, screen readers couldn't handle them. Photos confuse the software. Tables and columns scramble the sentences. And some pages were nothing but graphics, rendering readers mute.

"THE NET IS MAKING everone more empowered." Greg Vanderheiden, director of Trace Research & Development Center in Madison, Wis., and a professor of industrial engineering at the University of Wisconsin there, says. "But it's not always being carried over to people with disabilities."

He should know. He's been monitoring access for the physically disabled since 1971, when he helped a student with cerebral palsy communicate in class. It was the first time he had met anyone with a disability. After working with the student for two years he founded the Trace center in 1973 and brought in like minded researchers.

Mike Paciello, foundation director since 1992, has proposed ways to make the Web more accessible. In April this year, he submitted the

idea to the World Wide Web Consortium, an international group that sets Web standards.

If his proposal is accepted, software for building Web sites is likely to change. For instance, designers might regularly add descriptions to pictures or captions to audio clips. Descriptions for pictures could be be inserted so that they couldn't be seen but would be understood by screen readers.

SUCH NEW STANDARDS could help everyone. Just look at census projections. Today, one in three Americans between 55 and 64 are somehow physically disabled. Of those 75 and older, three in four are.

And that's where today's computer-savvy Generation X-ers will fallin 2050, when a third of the population will be 55 or older. Like their grandparents today, they're most likely to lose some sight or hearing, have access to the Internet," Vanderheiden says of the disabled. "If we don't it will be a huge disadvantage in education and employment.

And it could be a huge disadvantage to companies bottomlines. The market for software that makes the Internet accessible is potentially huge. The nation's disabled earn a staggering $714 billion a year, and traditionally they are quick to snap up new technologies.

RIT's Coombs may be a typical spender. When he bought his new laptop computer last year, his screen reader cost about $500. He plans to spend another $100 to upgrade when new software comes out next year.

Meanwhile, assessing the industry as a whole, Coombs swings between optimism and pessimism--"depending on the day of the week." He hopes that software companies will design accessible products that don't need such added software as his reader. He lauds Wong's team at Microsoft but just notes how tiny that corner of the corporate giant is.

Computer industry leaders are aiming at the largest market they can reach quickly. Coombs syys. "In the process, they're not thinking of...people who in various ways are impaired.

****

VALLEY CENTER CAN HELP

The Lehigh Valley Center for Independent Living, Allentown, can provide information to people with disabilities on assistive technologies that may allow them to use a computer and /or gain Internet access.

The center is also helping organize Valley Net. ValleyNet is a local electronic communications network that allows people for whom the non-Windows DOS operating system is required--perhaps because of the need for assistive technology--to gain access to e-mail and computerized conferencing. ValleyNet has chat rooms covering a variety of civic issues.

(610)770-9781 or (610)780-9801 for deaf users or fax communications.

INSIDE, OUTSIDE U.S.A.

Surf's up—and this routine simulates crashing waves.

```
530 REM SURF
531 FOR PITCH=0 TO 10:SOUND 2,PITCH,8,4
532 FOR DELAY=1 TO 30:NEXT DELAY:NEXT PITCH
533 FOR PITCH=10 TO 0 STEP -1:SOUND 2,PITCH,8,4
534 FOR DELAY=1 TO 300:NEXT DELAY:NEXT PITCH
535 GOTO 531
```

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